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TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 1, 1953

Antoine, and his wife Isabel, the concierge, were up at 4:00 o'clock this morning directly beneath my room preparing for their departure on a two-week vacation. He has resurrected an old taxicab of 1920 vintage with a top speed of 50 kilometers an hour and they are to motor to the north coast of Brittany. They are a fine couple and were pleased as children over the prospects of their journey.

I was up at 5:00 o'clock, and Audrey and I departed at 6:30 in a taxi driven by a pal of Antoine's for the Gare des Invalides. The departure of the bus from there was postponed but Audrey eventually got to Orly and her plane took off at 9:10 this morning.

E. and I left from Le Bourget on the 12:30 British European Airways plane for London. We had a good flight. Allen Dulles and Drew Dudley sat with us on the plane.

We went to dinner with Virginia and Ashley. The Foreign Office has asked the Italian Government for the agrément for Ashley's appointment as Ambassador to Italy. An announcement on this will probably be made next week and they will go down there the end of October. He is recovering from a painful operation following the removal of a fibroid growth on his hip. The doctors said, after a laboratory examination, it was not malignant.

Bobbity Salisbury is away but I had a long talk with Ashley about what seems to me the necessity, in the event Adenauer is successful in Germany, of having the American and British Governments use all possible influence to have the French Government submit the EDC Treaty to its parliament this autumn and have a show-down vote on the proposition. He is in thorough accord with this view.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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